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STORM SEWERS-

The rivers beneath our feet.



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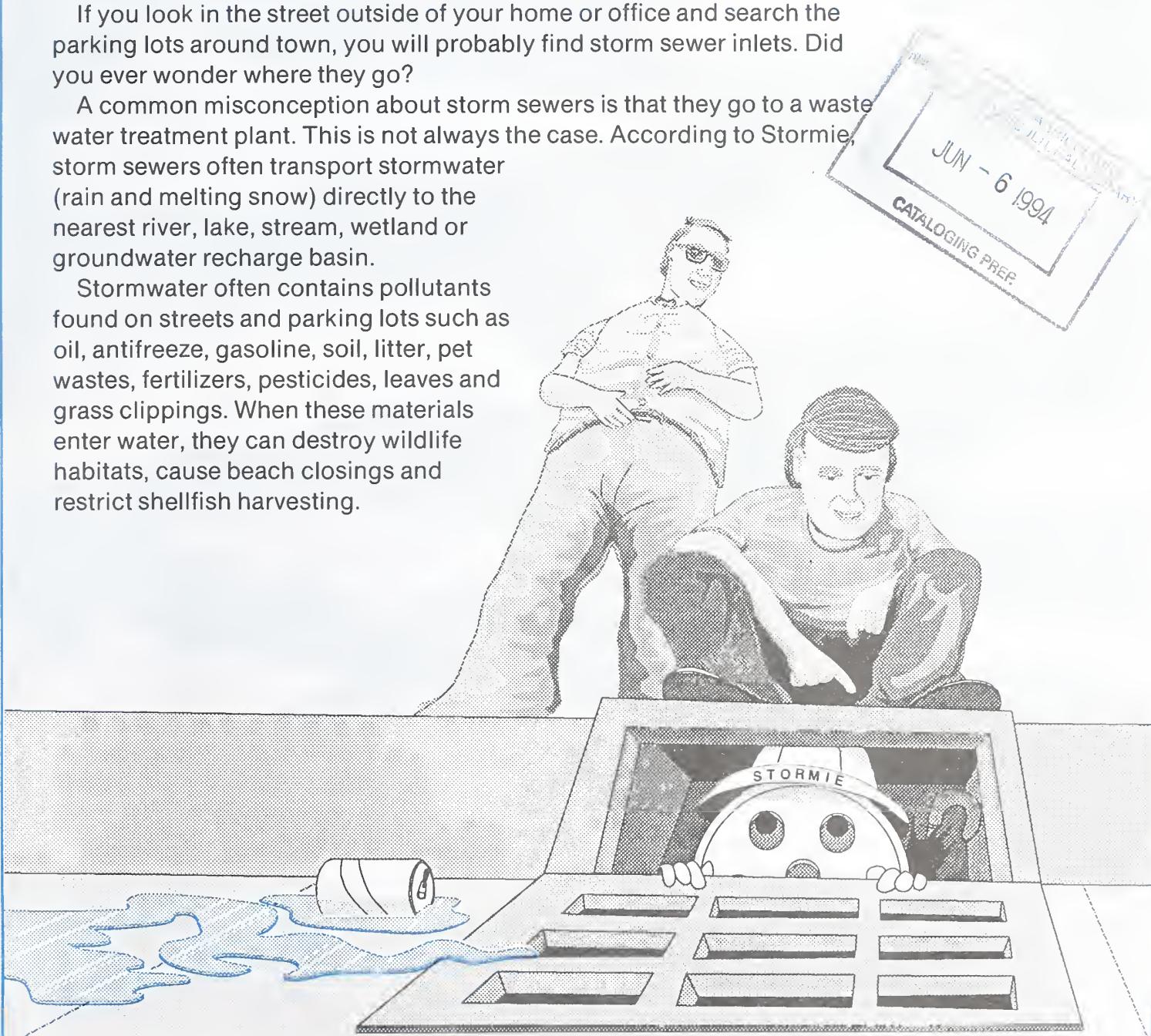
Provided by the New York Nonpoint Source Coordinating Committee

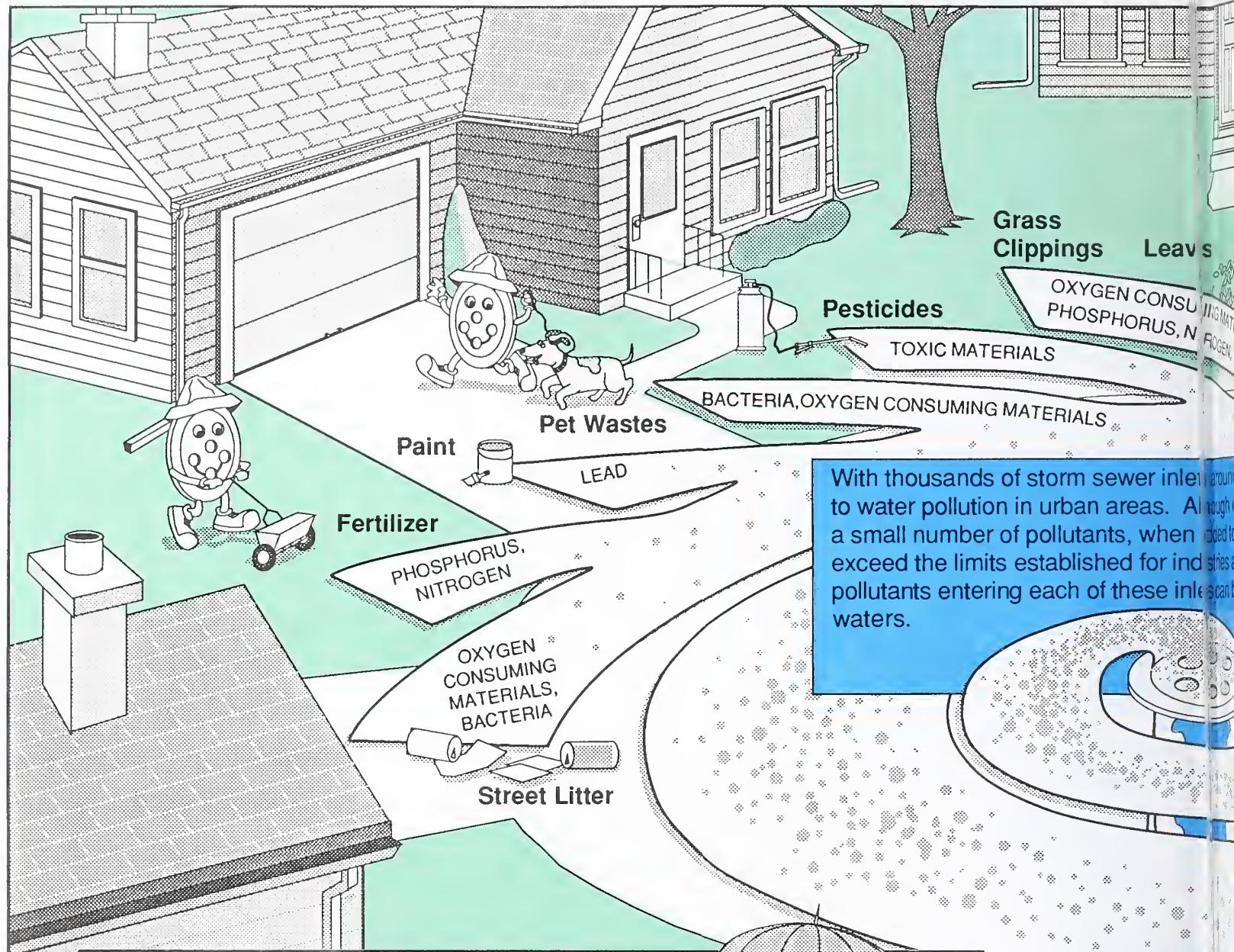
Where does the storm sewer go?

If you look in the street outside of your home or office and search the parking lots around town, you will probably find storm sewer inlets. Did you ever wonder where they go?

A common misconception about storm sewers is that they go to a waste water treatment plant. This is not always the case. According to Stormie, storm sewers often transport stormwater (rain and melting snow) directly to the nearest river, lake, stream, wetland or groundwater recharge basin.

Stormwater often contains pollutants found on streets and parking lots such as oil, antifreeze, gasoline, soil, litter, pet wastes, fertilizers, pesticides, leaves and grass clippings. When these materials enter water, they can destroy wildlife habitats, cause beach closings and restrict shellfish harvesting.



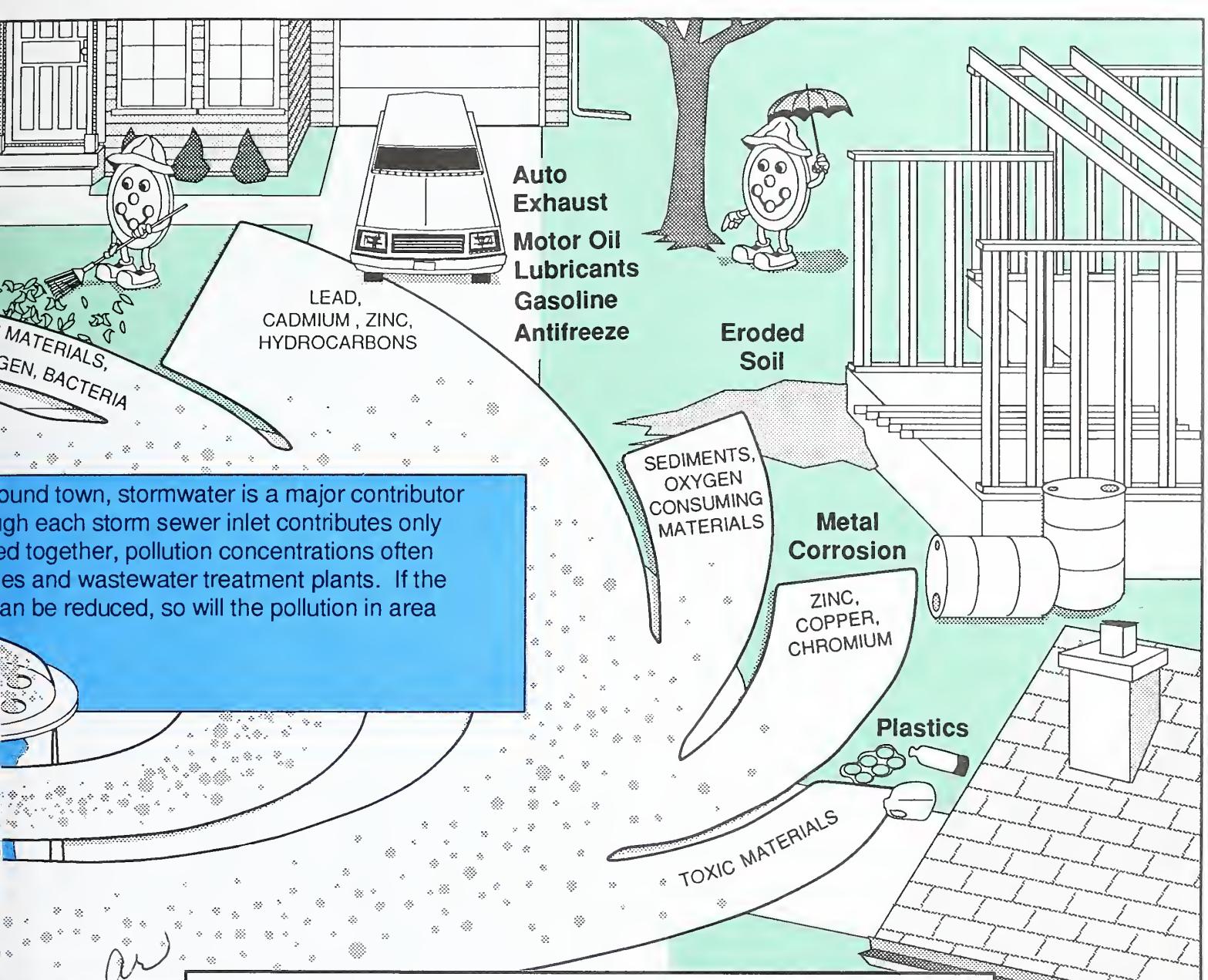


With thousands of storm sewer inlets around the country, stormwater runoff contributes to water pollution in urban areas. Although most stormwater runoff contains only small amounts of pollutants, when combined, they can exceed the limits established for individual pollutants entering each of these inlets. In addition, many pollutants enter rivers and lakes through stormwater runoff.

What communities can do to help:

- Adopt and enforce erosion and sediment control ordinances for construction sites.
- Require stormwater controls in all new developments.
- Install stormwater controls in existing areas where stormwater is very polluted.
- Increase street sweeping and clean out catch basins.
- Require yard wastes to be placed along the curb for collection rather than in the gutter.
- Promote recycling and household chemical disposal programs.



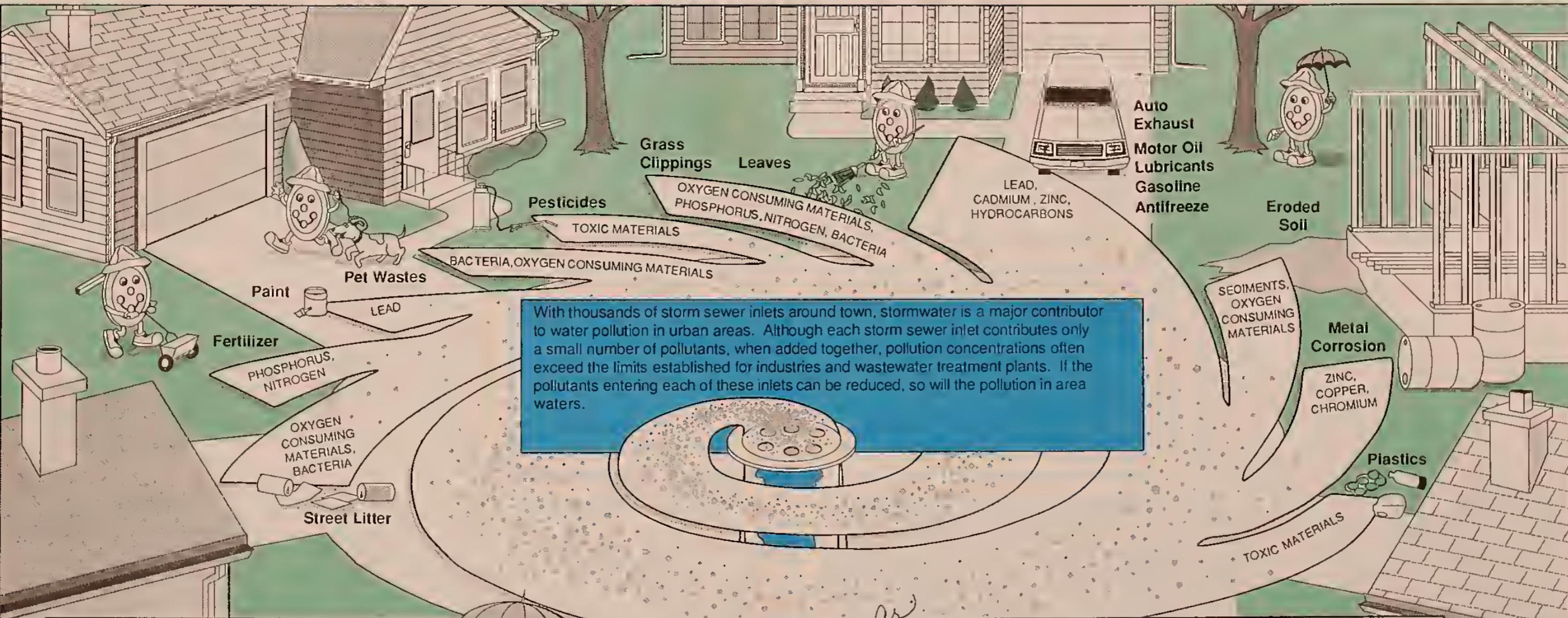


What you can do to help:

- Don't accumulate soil, leaves or grass clippings on your driveway, sidewalk or street. During the next rain, these materials will wash into the nearest storm sewer. Compost them instead.
- Don't dump automotive fluids, paints, pesticides or other materials down the storm sewer.
- Apply fertilizers and pesticides in recommended amounts based on results of a soil test.
- Sweep (don't wash) soil, leaves, fertilizer and grass clippings off paved areas.
- Minimize your use of de-icing materials.
- Dispose of pet wastes by burial.

To lake, stream
or coastal waters





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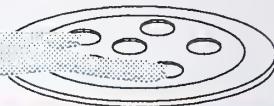
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Controlling stormwater pollution - We can all help

According to recent studies, polluted stormwater is a major cause of water pollution problems in New York State. One way we can help is by increasing the amount of water that soaks into the ground. This reduces the amount of water flowing into the street. Here's what you can do:

- Plant trees, shrubs or ground covers.
- Maintain your lawn with minimal use of chemicals.
- Redirect downspouts from paved areas to vegetated areas.
- Use a rainbarrel to catch and store water for gardens.
- Install gravel trenches along driveways or patios.
- Use wooden planks, bricks or interlocking stones for walkways and patios.
- If building a new home, have the driveway and walkways graded so water flows onto lawn areas.



**This brochure courtesy of the New York Nonpoint Source Coordinating Committee
composed of the following local, state and federal agencies.**

Cornell Cooperative Extension

New York City Department of Environmental Protection

New York Department of State, Division of Coastal Resources and Waterfront Revitalization

New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Water

New York State Department of Health

New York State Department of Transportation

New York State Legislative Commission on Water Resource Needs of Long Island

New York State Office of Rural Affairs

New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee

New York Water Resources Institute

Office of the Attorney General

United States Department of Agriculture — Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service

United States Department of Agriculture — Soil Conservation Service

United States Environmental Protection Agency

United States Geological Survey

New York Sea Grant Extension

For more information, contact a local representative of your county Soil and Water Conservation District, Cooperative Extension, Planning Department, Health Department or Environmental Management Council.

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